SENATE BILL 510 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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By: Senator Baker Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999 Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee Report: Favorable with amendments Senate action: Adopted Read second time: March 12, 1999 CHAPTER 1 AN ACT concerning 2 Cecil County - Election and Terms of Office for County Officers the Board of 3 **County Commissioners** 4 FOR the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland to exclude eertain county officers of the Board of County Commissioners for Cecil 5 County from certain requirements that county elections be conducted on a 6 certain quadrennial basis and that certain terms of office of eertain county 7 officers and certain officers appointed by the Board of County Commissioners be 8 9 for a certain term; submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection; and generally relating to 10 11 certain requirements for quadrennial elections and certain terms of office of certain county officers of the Board of County Commissioners for Cecil County. 12 13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendment sections of the Constitution of 14 Maryland 15 Article XVII - Quadrennial Elections Section 1, 2, 3, and 5 16 17 BY proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland Article XVII - Quadrennial Elections 18 19 Section 7 20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 21 MARYLAND, (Three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses

22 concurring), That it be proposed that the Constitution of Maryland read as follows:

Article XVII - Quadrennial Elections

2 1.

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- 3 The purpose of this Article is to reduce the number of elections by providing that
- 4 all State and county elections shall be held only in every fourth year, and at the time
- 5 provided by law for holding congressional elections, and to bring the terms of
- 6 appointive officers into harmony with the changes effected in the time of the
- 7 beginning of the terms of elective officers. The administrative and judicial officers of
- 8 the State shall construe the provisions of this Article so as to effectuate that purpose.
- 9 For the purpose of this Article only the word "officers" shall be construed to include
- 10 those holding positions and other places of employment in the state and county
- 11 governments whose terms are fixed by law, but it shall not include any appointments
- 12 made by the Board of Public Works, nor appointments by the Governor for terms of
- 13 three years.

14 2.

- Except for a special election that may be authorized to fill a vacancy in a County
- 16 Council under Article XI-A, Section 3 of the Constitution, elections by qualified voters
- 17 for State and county officers shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday
- 18 of November, in the year nineteen hundred and twenty-six, and on the same day in
- 19 every fourth year thereafter.
- 20 3.
- 21 All State and county officers elected by qualified voters (except judges of the
- 22 Circuit Courts, judges of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, judges of the Court of
- 23 Appeals and judges of any intermediate courts of appeal) shall hold office for terms of
- 24 four years, and until their successors shall qualify.
- 25 5.
- All officers to be appointed by the Governor shall hold office for the terms fixed
- 27 by law. All officers appointed by County Commissioners shall hold office for terms of
- 28 four years, unless otherwise duly changed by law.
- 29 7.
- 30 Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 of this Article do not apply or refer to:
- 31 (1) members of any elective local board of education; OR
- 32 (2) COUNTY OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR
- 33 CECIL COUNTY.
- 34 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
- 35 determines that the amendment to the Constitution of Maryland proposed by this Act
- 36 affects only one county and that the provisions of Article XIV, Section 1 of the
- 37 Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments apply.

- 1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the aforegoing section
- 2 proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland shall be submitted to the
- 3 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in
- 4 November, 2000 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in
- 5 Article XIV of the Constitution of this State. At that general election, the vote on this
- 6 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot
- 7 there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendments" and "Against 8 the Constitutional Amendments," as now provided by law. Immediately after the
- 9 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the
- 10 proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution, and further
- 11 proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.